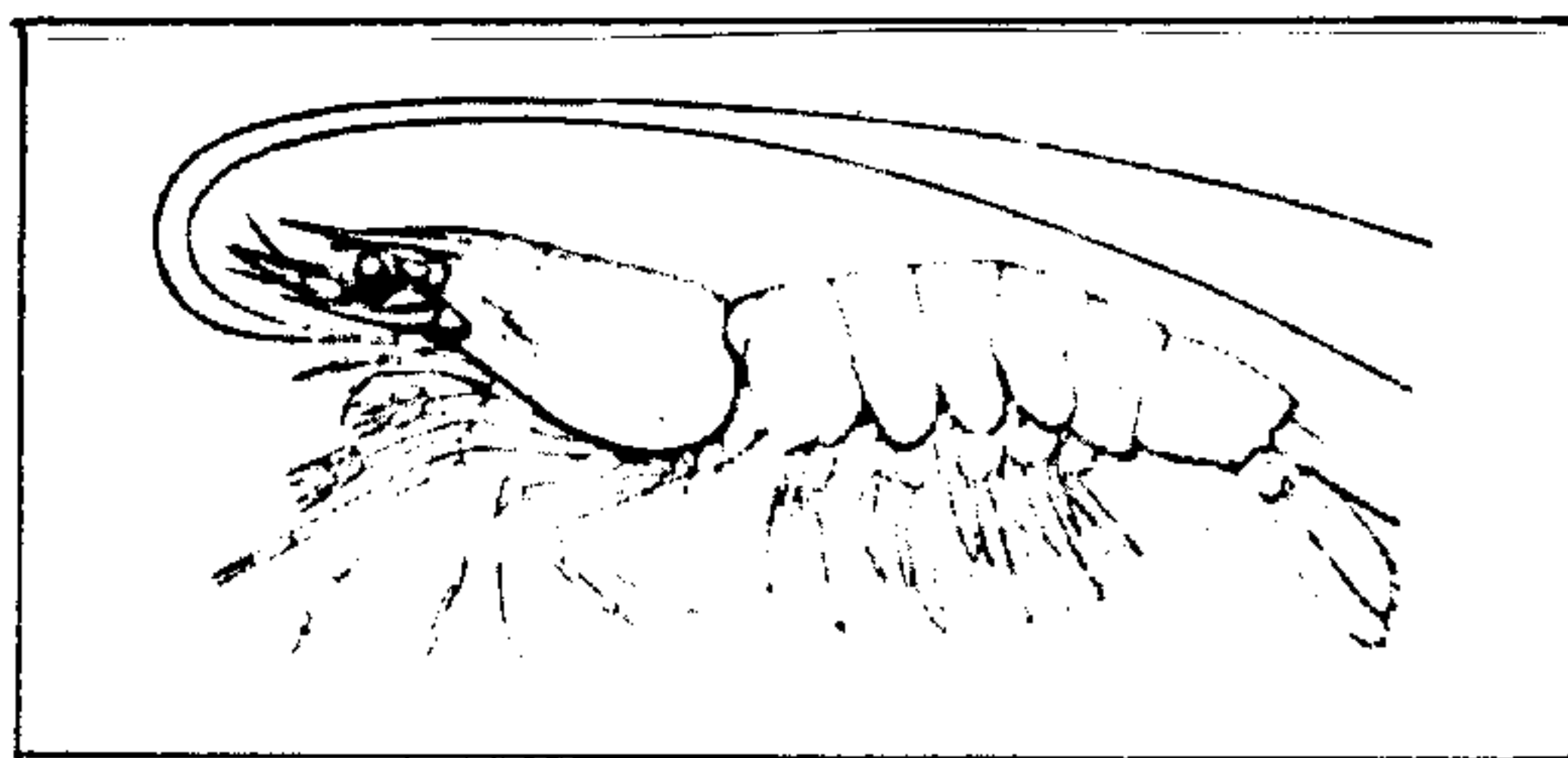


BROWN SHRIMP LIVE LONGER THAN MANY BIOLOGISTS BELIEVE

It has been generally accepted among fishery biologists that the average life span of the more important penaeid shrimps is about 1 to 1½ years. However, recent evidence suggests that they live considerably longer.



Past longevity estimates were based on size distribution studies, body proportion measurements, and marking experiments using tags and dyes. During 1969, personnel of the National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Laboratory at Galveston, Texas, tagged and released 6,514 brown shrimp, *Penaeus aztecus*, in 24 fathoms southwest of Freeport, Texas. These shrimp, sexually mature adults (average total length 169 mm), were at least 8 to 12 months old. They were marked with a cut-down version of the Petersen disc tag, the best mark available for large shrimp. Pins used to secure the discs were coated with an antibiotic mixture to retard infection.

Since release, 583 (8.9%) have been recaptured; several, males and females, are at least 20 to 27 months old. Recent returns indicate the probability of more recoveries and a further extension of the known life span of brown shrimp.

--K. N. Baxter

U.S. AND USSR STUDY SHRIMP IN GULF OF ALASKA

The abundance and distribution of northern shrimp over a large part of the Gulf of Alaska is being studied in a cooperative U.S.-USSR research project.

The project resulted from discussions between U.S. and Soviet scientists in Moscow, December 1970. Such meetings are provided for in U.S.-USSR agreements concerning North Pacific fisheries as opportunities to study the status of resources.

The Vessels & Areas

Three research vessels are participating: the Soviet 'Krill', the NMFS 'Oregon', and the 'Resolution' of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The Krill is working exclusively outside the 12-mile U.S. fishery limit; the Resolution only within the 12-mile limit; and the Oregon on either side of the 12-mile limit.

Sampling stations extend from Portlock Bank along south coast of Kodiak Island and westward to Shumagin Islands.

Two NMFS scientists are aboard Krill to observe trawling operations.



EDA GRANTS FUNDS FOR HARBOR IMPROVEMENT IN SEWARD, ALASKA

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U. S. Department of Commerce has approved a \$288,000 grant and a \$72,000 loan to stimulate growth of the fishing industry in Seward, Alaska.

The City of Seward will use the money to build a wharf to provide additional berths for commercial fishing boats. The wharf will be constructed between existing docks serving the fishing fleet.

City officials say the expansion will help increase fishermen incomes and enhance plans to put processing operations on year-round basis.